

**PARM  
PIUTE/WAYNE  
COUNTY**

Emergency ACEC  
informational  
meeting

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**Date: Monday October 20th, 2003**

**Time: 10:00 AM**

**Place: Loa County Court House**

**Members Present;** Todd Black USU Extension CCES, Verl Bagley USU Extension, Tom Jarmin NRCS, Paul Pace Farm Services, Larry Greenwood BLM Richfield Office, Gary Hall BLM Richfield Office, Verl Christianson BLM Richfield Office, Dwayne Elmore USU, Gary Hallows Parker Mountain Grazing Association, Andy Taft Parker Mountain Grazing Association, Ron Torgerson SITLA, Laura Romin USFWS Renee Chi USFWS

**Information Presented**

It was announced that Leon B. local biologist with the UDWR had retired.

BLM—discussed how the Parker Mountain ACEC proposal how it fits into the BLM's RMP they are currently preparing. In general an ACEC has to meet certain criteria to have special management placed on it. Management concerns and issues do exist on PARM and hence an ACECE proposals have been given and received by the BLM in Richfield. The PARM ACEC is 115,604 acres. The relevance and importance criteria are the first things that need to be meant. Wildlife including sage grouse and prairie dogs qualify this ACEC, it also qualified with the threatened prairie dog and sensitive sage grouse and pygmy rabbit. This ACEC was submitted by the USFWS. Gary encouraged the PARM group to come up with their support and/or give some management recommendations for the area and how to managed things differently.

➤ **Comments:**

Todd asked what management practices have been implemented for those specific species on the BLM currently. Gary indicated that there were none.

Andy indicated that PARM has been around for four years and noted that the BLM really hasn't been doing anything and that PARM has been involved with BLM on their ground. He would like to see PARM get involved with the BLM on improving the BLM grounds to do similar projects that have

been done on SITLA grounds on the BLM.

Gary Hall (BLM) asked the group what is the concern with the ACEC? The bottom line concern is to why have an ACEC if we are continuing with PARM and doing the sage grouse management plan.

Laura—ACEC might help with getting more funding and helping PARM with their implementation of the sage grouse management plan and carry more weight with listing of the sage grouse and other species. Laura further suggested that USFWS could amend the latter putting more emphasis on PARM having control and input with the ACEC and how it would fit with the overall conservation plan.

Group—bottom line the group felt that an ACEC might not be a good thing if it controlled grazing and put more restrictions on grazing.

SITLA Ron T. Intermountain West Joint Venture funding—lots of rocks with the Dixie harrow treatment. The remaining monies we would like to use Spike treatments in the Pikes Peak allotment. DWR would like to rest the area for two years.

The company (DowElanco) that sells spike recommends a one year rest until the fall of the following year. The company flew on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October or was supposed to and treated the various sites.

USU Extension Verl B.—gave presentation on how plants respond in different range sites. He talked about different steady states of vegetation. Because of varying precip. and soil conditions vegetation communities just won't change without a major event. They basically stay in the same condition just moving back and forth in the general area without a big catastrophic event. This is common in most western states with regards to vegetation conditions. This is why different grazing résumés of deferred or rest rotation haven't worked in the past on Parker. Verl showed various sites on the field trip to show some examples.

### **Discussion Highlights**

The group felt as a whole that they needed some time to mull this ACEC over. A field trip was taken and some of the area

that would be included in the ACEC was visited. It was generally felt that the ACEC wouldn't really be in the best interests of PARM and PARM members felt that they could do a much better job addressing concerns in the sage grouse management plan.

**Actions Taken**

Set next meeting for November 6<sup>th</sup> instead of the 5<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be held in Loa at 10:00 AM at the court house.

Todd to draft letter to BLM Richfield stating PARM groups stand and position on the ACEC. This letter will be finalized at the meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Gary/Andy to talk with the grazers and assess their feelings on the ACEC and let them know the course of action PARM is taking.

Verl to talk with county commissioners and let them know the action PARM is taking.

Laura to revise the ACEC letter sent to Richfield BLM to indicate that the area in question would be included and managed under the guiding sage grouse management plan which PARM will be drafting shortly.

Larry Greenwood to check on existing ACEC throughout the state and region to see if any ACEC's allow grazing.

Todd to ensure DWR will be represented at next PARM meeting to replace Leon who has retired.

**Follow-up Needed**

Dean Mitchell to get DWR folks to ensure DWR is represented at PARM meetings.

**By Whom**